

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.Final Results of Cereal and Hay Harvest, 1953-54.

Although there still are a few minor wheat districts where the completion of the collection has been delayed, and a number of odd returns from farmers in other districts are outstanding, a safe estimate has been made for all these and the totals now submitted may be accepted subject to slight alteration.

Seasonal conditions. The average rainfall over the Agricultural Areas for April and May 1953 was less than half the mean with the result that seeding was delayed. Fortunately, June rains were 50% above the mean and the rains for each of the succeeding months were equal to or slightly above the mean and - despite the deficiency in April and May - the total April-November falls totalled 12.62 inches compared with the mean of 12.40 inches for the past 49 years. It is noted that though the 1953 rainfall was only just a little above the mean, yet the average wheat yield of 19.91 bushels per acre was considerably higher than the mean of 11.16 bushels. The maximum yield of 21.97 bushels in 1952-53 was grown on an April-November rainfall of 15.19 inches, the next highest yield of 19.91 bushels this last season was grown on 12.62 inches and the previous highest of 18.18 bushels was in 1942-43 on 16.11 inches. Compared with the mean wheat yield of 11.16 bushels, the yields for the last 8 seasons have been 11.08; 13.70; 12.67; 14.95; 16.74; 16.92, 21.97 and 19.91 bushels per acre.

Harvesting conditions, as in 1952-53, were exceptionally good and actual yields for wheat and barley considerably exceeded expectations. The yield of wheat is 30,429,283 bushels compared with the November estimate of 27,000,000; barley 28,397,033 compared with 24,000,000, oats 4,368,894 compared with 4,500,000 and field peas 407,484 compared with 400,000 bushels.

The total yield of wheat, barley and oats combined was 63,195,210 bushels from 2,930,102 acres and has been exceeded only by the 66,486,793 bushels from 2,850,633 acres the previous season. The next highest was 55,094,474 bushels from 3,587,161 acres in 1939-40.

NOTE:- The 1953-54 particulars are shown hereunder with those for 1952-53 in parentheses. For statistical purposes, the weight of bags is not counted as grain.

WHEAT:- The yield of 30,429,283 (33,918,689) bushels averaged 19.91 (21.97) bushels per acre from an area of 1,528,239 (1,543,762) acres including any areas failed. Including wheat for hay and green forage, the total area was 1,603,127 (1,601,438) acres.

WHEAT AND FALLOW:- On fallowed land 1,124,842 acres of wheat produced 24,832,935 bushels averaging 22.08 bushels per acre. On not fallowed land, there were 403,397 acres with 5,596,348 bushels averaging 13.87 bushels. The average yields the previous season were 24.19 bushels on fallow land and 15.34 on land not fallowed.

BARLEY:- The yield totalled 28,397,033 (25,901,684) bushels and the average per acre was 25.36 (27.63). 26,340,009 bushels were reported to be 2 row and 2,057,024 bushels 6 row. The acreage for grain was 1,119,663 (937,521) and for all purposes 1,142,259 (953,572). The area and the yield for 1953-54 exceeded the records of the previous season, but the average yield per acre had been exceeded in 2 previous seasons, that for 1952-53 being the highest.

OATS:- The yield totalled 4,368,894 (6,666,420) bushels and the average per acre was 15.48 (18.05). The acreage for grain was 282,200 (369,350) acres and for all purposes 701,403 (699,750). The 1952/53 yield and average yields were records.

CEREALS ETC. USED ON FARMS:- Farmers reported that they used the following quantities of cereals, etc. on their farms during the twelve months ended March 1954. For seed - Wheat 1,872,128, Barley 1,357,764 and Oats 887,983 bushels. For feed for livestock and poultry - Wheat 793,689, Barley 632,622; Oats 1,513,549 bushels and Hay and Chaff 175,741 tons. Of the wheat produced in 1953-54 it was reported that 1,991,649 bushels were retained on the farms for seed and 437,335 bushels for feed.

RYE:- There has been a decided increase in the areas cropped with rye. In 1935-36 there were only 1,680 acres. For 1953-54 there was a total of 62,194 of which 52,616 (57,041) acres were for grain yielding 325,597 (408,646) bushels.

FIELD PEAS:- 407,484 (444,010) bushels from 25,986 (24,525) acres. 3,243 acres of field peas were fed off. Approximately the same area as in 1953-54 was intended to be sown for 1954-55.

HAY:- 260,070 (213,852) acres were cut for hay, wheaten being 61,799 (49,626) and oaten 118,298 (99,458) acres. The total yield was 367,099 (317,462) tons, wheaten being 98,582 (80,721) and oaten 150,165 (137,087). Average tons per acre were 1.41 (1.48).

ACREAGES:- The following table shows the total areas under wheat, barley and oats for all purposes, (grain, hay or green fodder) for 1930-31 - the maximum year; for 1943-44 - the lowest areas in recent years; for each of the last five seasons, and for 1954-55 representing the areas that farmers indicated they intended to sow when particulars of the recent harvest were being collected during the past 3 or 4 months. It is noted that the combined areas under wheat, barley and oats are practically stationary.

Season		Wheat	Barley	Oats	Total
1930-31	acres	4,507,213	267,369	519,300	5,293,882
1943-44	"	1,675,778	304,382	558,065	2,538,225
1949-50	"	2,005,907	721,149	624,592	3,351,648
1950-51	"	1,950,076	793,717	664,498	3,408,291
1951-52	"	1,687,897	858,464	816,418	3,362,779
1952-53	"	1,601,438	953,572	699,750	3,254,760
1953-54	"	1,603,127	1,142,259	701,403	3,446,789
1954-55	"	1,627,000	991,000	725,000	3,343,000

Prior to 1952-53, the total area under wheat for all purposes exceeded the combined areas of barley and oats, but from 1952-53 onwards the combined barley and oats areas have exceeded that for wheat.

VARIETIES SOWN:- Particulars of the acreages sown with the principal varieties of wheat, barley and oats are being published separately.

THE ATTACHED STATEMENTS show details of 1953-54 crops in Statistical Divisions and also the 1953-54 totals compared with the five previous seasons.

A.W. BOWDEN,

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

Statistical Office,
ADELAIDE.

5th August, 1954.

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
FINAL RESULTS OF CEREALS AND HAY, 1953-54.

1. ACREAGE CROPPED

Divisions	Total Cereals, Peas, Hay, Green Fodder	AREA FOR GRAIN			Hay Total	Green Fodder
		Wheat	Barley	Oats		
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Central	852,540	270,351	367,026	34,528	105,199	57,293
Lower North	779,048	406,322	208,681	45,154	49,957	60,735
Upper North	141,105	98,628	16,746	8,362	10,342	5,746
South Eastern	151,574	34,701	36,025	23,036	41,838	15,173
Western	1,050,150	470,834	227,838	131,808	24,937	192,492
Murray Mallee	661,486	247,403	263,347	39,312	27,797	35,690
Total 1953/54	3,635,903	1,528,239	1,119,663	282,200	260,070	367,129
Total 1952/53	3,433,383	1,543,762	937,521	369,350	213,852	287,332
Increase	202,520	- 15,523	182,142	-87,150	46,218	79,797

2. PRODUCTION OF GRAIN AND HAY.

Division	GRAIN						Hay Total Tons
	WHEAT		BARLEY		OATS		
	Bush.	Aver.	Bush.	Aver.	Bush.	Aver	
Central	6,280,330	23.23	10,475,736	28.54	638,609	18.50	164,048
Lower North	10,578,129	26.03	6,277,215	30.08	976,782	21.63	69,640
Upper North	2,080,720	21.10	413,073	24.67	164,214	19.64	14,309
South Eastern	789,282	22.75	844,502	23.44	399,802	17.36	68,091
Western	7,590,812	16.12	5,544,622	24.34	1,768,350	13.42	26,659
Murray Mallee	3,110,010	12.57	4,841,885	18.39	421,137	10.71	24,352
Total 1953/54	30,429,283	19.91	28,397,033	25.36	4,368,894	15.48	367,099
Total 1952/53	33,918,689	21.97	25,901,684	27.63	6,666,420	18.05	317,462
Increase	-3,489,406	-2.06	2,495,349	-2.27	-2,297,526	-2.57	49,637

3. FIVE YEARS' COMPARISON

Year	WHEAT			Rainfall Agric. April- Nov.	BARLEY	OATS
	Area	Yield	Aver. per Acre			
	Acres	Bush.	Bush.	Inches	Bush.	Bush.
1948-49	2,063,034	26,136,346	12.67	11.73	12,103,446	2,643,419
1949-50	1,896,324	28,350,860	14.95	12.18	12,725,240	3,463,997
1950-51	1,847,791	30,936,044	16.74	11.21	16,727,030	3,533,333
1951-52	1,613,126	27,300,839	16.92	16.10	16,825,996	5,404,927
1952-53	1,543,762	33,918,689	21.97	15.19	25,901,684	6,666,420
Mean	1,792,807	29,328,555	16.36	13.28	16,856,679	4,342,419
1953/54	1,528,239	30,429,283	19.91	12.62	28,397,033	4,368,894

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